

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJ: SOUTH ASIA REPATRIATION

1. THE TEXT OF THE APPEAL BY THE SYG FOR SUPPORT OF THE UN ASSISTANCE TO REPATRIATE PEOPLE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 28 AUGUST NEW DELHI AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:

QTE

SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO SEND YOU HERewith THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY ME CONTAINING AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, IN CONNEXION WITH THE REPATRIATION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN NEW DELHI ON 28 AUGUST 1973.

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I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD BRING THIS STATEMENT TO THE

ATTENTION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

SIGNED

KURT WALDHEIM

SECRETARY-GENERAL

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

OVER THE PAST MONTHS, AS GOVERNMENTS ARE AWARE, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN DEEPLY ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO RELIEVE HUMAN SUFFERING IN THE SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT. IN BANGLADESH, THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF OPERATION (UNROB) CONTINUES ITS VITAL MISSION. IN PAKISTAN, ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED TO THOSE DISPLACED BY WAR. MORE RECENTLY, FOLLOWING AN ASSESSMENT MADE BY THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR (UNDRO), I HAVE URGED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN PARTICULAR TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN REPAIR THE MASSIVE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY UNPRECEDENTED FLOODS. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERLINE ONCE AGAIN THE GRAVITY OF THIS SITUATION AND THE ONGOING NEEDS.

PARALLEL WITH THESE EFFORTS, AND FOLLOWING A VISIT THAT I UNDERTOOK TO THE SUB-CONTINENT EARLY IN 1973, THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN ARRANGING THE RETURN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE HOMES OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONS. I REQUESTED SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, TO ACT AS EXECUTING AGENT FOR THIS OPERATION. I AM HAPPY TO STATE THAT THIS MOVEMENT OF PERSONS HAS PROCEEDED WELL.

IN THE MEANTIME, A HISTORIC AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN DELHI ON 28 AUGUST 1973, WHICH I HAVE HAD OCCASION TO WELCOME. FOLLOWING UPON IT, THE GOVERNMENTS OF BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN HAVE URGENTLY SOUGHT THE FURTHER ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENT OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE COVERED BY THE DELHI AGREEMENT, WHO ARE AT PRESENT IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES. ASSISTANCE HAS ALSO BEEN SOUGHT FOR REHABILITATION PURPOSES.

AS REGARDS THE TRANSPORTATION OF THESE GROUPS, THE UNITED
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NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES WILL CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE SWIFT MOVEMENT OF THIS GREAT NUMBER OF PERSONS WILL REQUIRE A MAJOR MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES. THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IS NOW ENGAGED, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, IN ELABORATING THE LOGISTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MOVEMENT. HE WILL, VERY SHORTLY, BE IN A POSITION TO ADVISE GOVERNMENTS OF THE DETAILED REQUIREMENTS OF THIS OPERATION. IN ANTICIPATION OF THESE DETAILS, I WOULD URGE

GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER SPEEDILY THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY COULD
HELP BY PROVIDING FUNDS OR MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

WITH REGARD TO REHABILITATION, I HAVE REQUESTED UNDER-
SECRETARY-GENERAL SIR ROBERT JACKSON TO EXAMINE, IN CONSULTATION
WITH THOSE CONCERNED, THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY IN WHICH SUCH ASSISTANCE
CAN BE PROVIDED. IT IS CLEAR THAT EXISTING UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES
IN THE AREA SHOULD BE USED TO MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE, AND THAT SUCH
ASSISTANCE BE WOVEN INTO CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS ALREADY BEING MADE.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE CONCERNING REPATRIATION, RESETTLEMENT,
AND DISASTER RELIEF WILL NEED TO BE CLOSELY CO-ORDINATED AT UNITED
NATIONS HEADQUARTERS SO THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM CAN SPEAK TO
GOVERNMENTS WITH ONE VOICE. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE ALSO ASKED SIR
ROBERT JACKSON TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CO-ORDINATION
IN AGREEMENT WITH ALL THOSE CONCERNED.

THE DELHI AGREEMENT, UPON WHICH A STRUCTURE OF DURABLE PEACE
IN THE SUB-CONTINENT IS BEING BUILT, IS A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY
OF THE REGION. ITS IMPLEMENTATION, HOWEVER, IMPOSES HEAVY DEMANDS
ON THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, AT A TIME WHEN THEY
HAVE FACED NATURAL CALAMITIES OF EXCEPTIONALLY SERIOUS MAGNITUDE.
IN VIEW OF THIS, I APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RESPOND
GENEROUSLY AND SWIFTLY TO THIS GREAT HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE. UNQTE
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